

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 00-02

Date: 31 October 2003

Pamphlet Number: Title 156,
Nebraska Accessibility Guidelines

Section(s): 4.1.6

Comments:

The requirement of accessibility,
when there is a change of
occupancy

Question: Is a building that has a change of occupancy required to be
handicapped accessible?

Response: No. Accessibility is required when an alteration to an existing building is made that would effect the usability to that specific area of modification. The definition of alteration as per the ADAAG or SNAG:

An alteration is a change to the building or facility made by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public accommodation that affects or could affect the usability of the building or facility or part thereof. Alterations include, but are not limited to, remodeling, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, changes or rearrangement of the structural parts or elements and changes or rearrangement in the plan configurations of walls and full-height partitions.

Normal maintenance, reroofing, painting, wallpapering or changes to mechanical and electrical systems are not alterations unless they effect the usability of the building or facility.

Local Building Codes should always be followed if the requirements for accessibility are more stringent.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal